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Hardiman presents broad agenda, brings money to West Michigan during first Senate term

LANSING – Residents of Grand Rapids and the state were treated to a broad agenda as well as increased funding for local projects during Sen. Bill Hardiman's first term in the Michigan Senate.

Among the legislative accomplishments:

- Sponsoring Public Act 306 of 2005 that allows a health maintenance organization contract to include coinsurance and offer healthy lifestyle programs;
- Protecting children by requiring a child care organization to notify parents within 24 hours if it is the target of a state investigation for a "high risk" violation of state regulations; and
- Reforming welfare policies through legislation to help move families toward self-sufficiency by instituting a new Family Self-Sufficiency plan for every recipient and a 48-month lifetime cash assistance limit.

Hardiman was able to help secure \$30 million in state funding for West Michigan by:

- Adding \$1 million in funding for life science funding for the VanAndel Institute;
- Restoring \$800,000 for at-risk funding for Grand Rapids Public Schools;
- Adding an additional \$1.3 million for the GRPS at-risk programs, declining enrollment, and equity payments;
- Adding \$5 million into the Department of Human Services budget for Before- and After-School Programs;
- Adding \$25,000 into the DHS budget for Kent County Senior Meals on Wheels for an elderly food assistance program; and
- Preventing a \$640,000 cut to local revenue sharing for the 29th District.

Hardiman also joined his Senate colleagues in passing legislation to create and retain jobs in Michigan, increasing funding for education and enacting a balanced budget without impacting essential services.

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